

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

VOLANTE MCKEEVER,

Defendant.

No. 3:21-cr-121-DJN

PLEA AGREEMENT

Jessica D. Aber, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; undersigned counsel for the United States; the defendant, Volante McKeever; and the defendant's counsel have entered into an agreement pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The terms of this Plea Agreement are as follows:

**1. Offense and Maximum Penalties**

The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment, charging the defendant with Conspiracy to Pay Bribes to Public Officials, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. The maximum penalties for this offense are: a term of 5 years of imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, forfeiture of assets as outlined below, a special assessment pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 3013, and a supervised release term of 3 years. The defendant understands that any supervised release term is in addition to any prison term the defendant may receive, and that a violation of a term of supervised release could result in the defendant being returned to prison for the full term of supervised release.

**2. Factual Basis for the Plea**

The defendant will plead guilty because the defendant is in fact guilty of the charged offense. The defendant admits the facts set forth in the Statement of Facts filed with this Plea

Agreement and agrees that those facts establish guilt of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt. The Statement of Facts, which is hereby incorporated into this Plea Agreement, constitutes a stipulation of facts for purposes of Section 1B1.2(c) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

**3. Assistance and Advice of Counsel**

The defendant is satisfied that the defendant's attorney has rendered effective assistance. The defendant understands that by entering into this Plea Agreement, defendant surrenders certain rights as provided in this agreement. The defendant understands that the rights of criminal defendants include the following:

- a. the right to plead not guilty and to persist in that plea;
- b. the right to a jury trial;
- c. the right to be represented by counsel—and, if necessary, have the court appoint counsel—at trial and at every other stage of the proceedings; and
- d. the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

**4. Sentencing Guidelines, Recommendations, and Roles**

The defendant understands that the Court has jurisdiction and authority to impose any sentence within the statutory maximum described above, but that the Court will determine the defendant's actual sentence in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The defendant understands that the Court has not yet determined a sentence and that any estimate of the advisory sentencing range under the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Sentencing Guidelines Manual the defendant may have received from the defendant's counsel, the United States, or the Probation Office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office, or the Court. Additionally, pursuant to the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), the Court, after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), may

impose a sentence above or below the advisory sentencing range, subject only to review by higher courts for reasonableness. The United States makes no promise or representation concerning what sentence the defendant will receive, and the defendant cannot withdraw a guilty plea based upon the actual sentence.

In accordance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B), the United States and the defendant stipulate and will recommend to the Court that the following provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines apply:

<b>Guideline(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>
2C1.1(a)(2)	Base offense level (Defendant is Not Public Official)	12
2C1.1(b)(1)	Offense Conduct Involved More Than One Bribe	+2
2C1.1(b)(2)	The Value of the Bribes Exceeded \$15,000	+4
2C1.1(b)(3)	Offense Involved Public Official in Sensitive Position	+4

The United States and the defendant further agree that the defendant has assisted the government in the investigation and prosecution of the defendant's own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of the defendant's intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. If the defendant qualifies for a two-level decrease in offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) and the offense level prior to the operation of that section is a level 16 or greater, the government agrees to file, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), a motion prior to, or at the time of, sentencing for an additional one-level decrease in the defendant's offense level.

The parties agree not to seek any other enhancements or reductions to the defendant's offense level.

The defendant acknowledges that by entering into this agreement, she is permanently and irrevocably waiving the right to litigate the issues whether she is protected by a transactional immunity agreement dated August 30, 2019, into which she entered with the United States and whether she breached that transactional immunity agreement.

The United States and the defendant have agreed that in light of circumstances surrounding the transactional immunity agreement referenced above, the nature of the defendant's breach of that agreement, and other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), a four-level downward variance from the offense level ultimately determined by the Court at sentencing is appropriate, and the parties jointly agree to move for such a variance and not to argue for a sentence above or below the advisory guideline range that results from that four-level downward variance.

The defendant acknowledges that the recommendations and stipulations contained in this paragraph are not binding on the Court and that she will not be permitted to withdraw her plea if the Court declines to follow the recommendations or accept the stipulations at sentencing.

#### **5. Waiver of Appeal, FOIA, and Privacy Act Rights**

The defendant also understands that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 affords a defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed. Nonetheless, the defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal the conviction and any sentence within the statutory maximum described above (or the manner in which that sentence was determined) on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or on any ground whatsoever other than an ineffective assistance of counsel claim that is cognizable on direct appeal, in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this Plea Agreement. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). The defendant also hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a

representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

The issues waived by the defendant for pursuit on appeal include, but are not limited to, the issue of transactional immunity discussed in paragraph four.

**6. Dismissal of Other Counts**

As a condition of the execution of this agreement and the Court's acceptance of the defendant's plea of guilty, the United States will move to dismiss the remaining counts pending against this defendant at the conclusion of this defendant's sentencing hearing.

**7. Immunity from Further Prosecution in This District**

The United States will not further criminally prosecute the defendant in the Eastern District of Virginia for the specific conduct described in the Indictment or Statement of Facts. This Plea Agreement and the Statement of Facts do not confer on the defendant any immunity from prosecution by any state government in the United States.

**8. Payment of Monetary Penalties**

The defendant understands and agrees that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613 and 18 U.S.C. § 3572, all monetary penalties imposed by the Court, including restitution, will be due immediately and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States as provided for in Section 3613. Within 14 days of a request, the defendant agrees to provide all of the defendant's financial information to the United States and the Probation Office and, if requested, to participate in a pre-sentencing debtor's examination and/or complete a financial statement under penalty of perjury. If the Court imposes a schedule of payments, the defendant understands that

the schedule of payments is merely a minimum schedule of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available to the United States to enforce the judgment. Until all monetary penalties are paid in full, the defendant will be referred to the Treasury Offset Program so that any federal payment or transfer of returned property to the defendant will be offset and applied to pay the defendant's unpaid monetary penalties. If the defendant is incarcerated, the defendant agrees to participate voluntarily in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, regardless of whether the Court specifically directs participation or imposes a schedule of payments. Defendant agrees to make good-faith efforts toward payment of all monetary penalties imposed by the Court.

**9. Special Assessment**

Before sentencing in this case, the defendant agrees to pay a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per felony count of conviction, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013(a)(2)(A).

**10. Forfeiture Agreement**

The defendant understands that the forfeiture of assets is part of the sentence that must be imposed in this case. The defendant agrees to forfeit all interests in any bribery-related asset that the defendant owns or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly. This includes any property that is traceable to, derived from, fungible with, or a substitute for the following: property that constitutes the proceeds of the offense and property used in or involved in the offense.

The defendant understands that if the assets subject to forfeiture are not available to the United States to be forfeited, the Court must enter a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of the unavailable assets. *United States v. Blackman*, 746 F.3d 137 (4th Cir. 2014). The defendant acknowledges that as a result of defendant's acts or omissions, the actual proceeds the defendant

obtained as a result of the offense are not available and the defendant stipulates that one or more of the factors listed at 21 U.S.C. § 853(p)(1) are present in this case.

The defendant further agrees to waive all interest in the asset(s) in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. The defendant agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. Defendant admits and agrees that the conduct described in the charging instrument and Statement of Facts provides a sufficient factual and statutory basis for the forfeiture of the property sought by the government.

#### **11. Waiver of Further Review of Forfeiture**

The defendant further agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges to forfeiture in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Plea Agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The defendant also waives any failure by the Court to advise the defendant of any applicable forfeiture at the time the guilty plea is accepted as required by Rule 11(b)(1)(J). The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding. The defendant understands and agrees that all property covered by this agreement is subject to forfeiture as proceeds of illegal conduct property used or involved in the offense, and substitute assets for property otherwise subject to forfeiture.

**12. The Defendant's Obligations Regarding Assets Subject to Forfeiture**

Upon request by the government, the defendant agrees to identify all assets in which the defendant had any interest or over which the defendant exercises or exercised control, directly or indirectly, within the past 5 years from the date of the defendant's signature on this Plea Agreement. The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to obtain from any other parties by any lawful means any records of assets owned at any time by the defendant. The defendant agrees to undergo any polygraph examination the United States may choose to administer concerning such assets and to provide and/or consent to the release of the defendant's tax returns for the previous five years. The defendant understands that the proceeds of the offense(s) are subject to forfeiture and cannot be used for any purpose, to include attorney's fees and living expenses.

**13. Breach of the Plea Agreement and Remedies**

This Plea Agreement is effective when signed by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, and an attorney for the United States. The defendant agrees to entry of this Plea Agreement at the date and time scheduled with the Court by the United States (in consultation with the defendant's attorney). If the defendant withdraws from this agreement, or commits or attempts to commit any additional federal, state, or local crimes, or intentionally gives materially false, incomplete, or misleading testimony or information, or otherwise violates any provision of this agreement, then:

- a. The United States will be released from its obligations under this agreement. The defendant, however, may not withdraw the guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement.
- b. The defendant will be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation, including, but not limited to, perjury and obstruction of justice, that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed. Notwithstanding the subsequent expiration of



the statute of limitations, in any such prosecution, the defendant agrees to waive any statute-of-limitations defense.

- c. Any prosecution, including the prosecution that is the subject of this agreement, may be premised upon any information provided, or statements made, by the defendant, and all such information, statements, and leads derived therefrom may be used against the defendant. The defendant waives any right to claim that statements made before or after the date of this agreement, including the Statement of Facts accompanying this agreement or adopted by the defendant and any other statements made pursuant to this or any other agreement with the United States, should be excluded or suppressed under Fed. R. Evid. 410, Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f), the Sentencing Guidelines, or any other provision of the Constitution or federal law.

Any alleged breach of this agreement by either party shall be determined by the Court in an appropriate proceeding at which the defendant's disclosures and documentary evidence shall be admissible and at which the moving party shall be required to establish a breach of this Plea Agreement by a preponderance of the evidence.

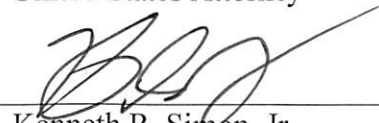
#### **14. Nature of the Agreement and Modifications**

This written agreement constitutes the complete plea agreement between the United States, the defendant, and the defendant's counsel. The defendant and the defendant's attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in writing in this Plea Agreement or any associated documents filed with the Court, to cause the defendant to plead guilty. Any modification of this Plea

Agreement shall be valid only as set forth in writing in a supplemental or revised plea agreement signed by all parties.

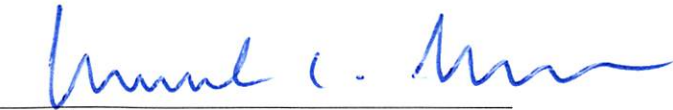
Jessica D. Aber  
United States Attorney

By:



Kenneth R. Simon, Jr.  
Assistant United States Attorney

By:



Michael C. Moore  
Assistant United States Attorney

Defendant's Signature: I hereby agree that I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand all rights with respect to the pending Indictment. Further, I fully understand all rights with respect to 18 U.S.C. § 3553 and the provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines Manual that may apply in my case. I have read this Plea Agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand this agreement and voluntarily agree to it.

Date: 1/31/22

Volante McKeever  
Volante McKeever

Defense Counsel's Signature: I am counsel for the defendant in this case. I have fully explained to the defendant the defendant's rights with respect to the pending Indictment. Further, I have reviewed 18 U.S.C. § 3553 and the Sentencing Guidelines Manual, and I have fully explained to the defendant the provisions that may apply in this case. I have carefully reviewed every part of this Plea Agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge, the defendant's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

Date: January 31, 2022

Fernando Groene  
Fernando Groene  
Counsel for the Defendant

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Statement of Special Assessment Account

This statement reflects your Special Assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIM. ACTION NO.:	3:21-cr-121-DJN
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	Volante McKeever
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$100.00

INSTRUCTIONS:

**1. MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:**

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

**2. PAYMENT MUST REACH THE CLERK'S OFFICE BEFORE YOUR SENTENCING DATE.**

**3. PAYMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

	In-Person (9 AM to 4 PM)	By Mail:
<b>Alexandria Cases:</b>	Clerk, U.S. District Court 401 Courthouse Square Alexandria, VA 22314	
<b>Richmond Cases:</b>	Clerk, U.S. District Court 701 East Broad Street, Suite 3000 Richmond, VA 23219	
<b>Newport News Cases:</b>	Clerk, U.S. District Court 2400 West Ave., Suite 100 Newport News, VA 23607	
<b>Norfolk Cases:</b>	Clerk, U.S. District Court 600 Granby Street Norfolk, VA 23510	

**4. INCLUDE DEFENDANT'S NAME ON CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.**

**5. ENCLOSE THIS COUPON TO ENSURE PROPER AND PROMPT APPLICATION OF PAYMENT.**